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amnesty international
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 390/91 EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS/FEAR OF TORTURE 12 November 1991

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Group of mourners, Dili, East Timor

An estimated 20 people, and possibly many more, were reportedly killed and dozens were wounded when Indonesian security forces opened fire on a group of mourners at Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, East Timor on 12 November. Others, including a foreign journalist, were reportedly beaten during the incident and scores were said to have been detained. The victims were among hundreds of people who had gone to the grave of Sebastiao (Gomes) Rangel, a young man killed on 28 October when Indonesian troops entered the parish church of Motael where he and about 20 other political activists had been hiding.

Amnesty International is calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the circumstances of the reported killings. It is seriously concerned for the safety of those arrested and is urging that those detained solely for their non-violent political activities or beliefs be immediately released and that, following their release, their safety be guaranteed. It is also calling on the Indonesian authorities to ensure that those responsible for extrajudicial executions or for the ill-treatment of prisoners be brought promptly to justice.

According to eyewitnesses, the mourners had attended a memorial mass for Sebastiao (Gomes) Rangel at about 7:30 am before walking to the Santa Cruz cemetery where he was buried. At or near the cemetery, security forces reportedly opened fire on the mourners, leaving at least twenty either dead or wounded. Some reports have placed the number of dead at between 50 and 100. According to one such report, more than 60 casualties, some dead and others wounded, were reportedly taken to the military hospital in Dili. Eyewitnesses said that the procession of several hundred people was peaceful although some members of the group had shouted pro-independence slogans and a flag of the resistance movement Fretilin could be seen.

A number of people were said to have been beaten during the incident, among them a US journalist, Alan Nairn, who had been in East Timor for several days. A third foreigner, whose identity is not known, was also reported to have been wounded in the incident.

Scores of people were believed to have been arrested in connection with the incident. Eyewitnesses said that the streets of Dili were deserted for much of the day, and that security forces were roaming the streets firing their weapons indiscriminately and carrying out arrests. Many of those arrested were believed to have been taken to the police headquarters in Dili, and there were fears that they might be at risk of ill-treatment or torture.

An Indonesian military official told reporters on 12 November: "If there has been a shooting you should get the information from Jakarta." Amnesty International sought official confirmation and clarification of the reported killings and arrests from Indonesian government representatives, but has not yet received a response. An official at the Governor's office in East Timor told a journalist that there had been shootings, but provided no further details. In a statement later in the day, Indonesian military authorities confirmed that several people had been killed and others injured. They said that security forces had tried to disperse the "protesters" in "persuasive ways, but they put up resistance and attacked the officers." Military authorities also said that they had seized a number of weapons after the incident.

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience.* It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The incident at the cemetery in Dili occurred in the context of heightened tension over a visit to East Timor by a delegation of Portuguese parliamentarians. The visit was postponed shortly before the delegation was scheduled to arrive in early November. Sebastiao (Gomes) Rangel was one of two people who were reportedly killed on 28 October 1991 when Indonesian security forces opened fire in the compound of Motael Church, also in Dili. Military officials claimed the victims had died during a fight between pro-independence activists and "passers-by". Witnesses claimed that the "passers-by were in fact military intelligence agents who had come to arrest the political activists. (See UA 357/91, ASA 21/18/91 28 October 1991; and follow up ASA 21/19/91 30 October 1991).

Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in 1975 in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former colony. Since that time Amnesty International has continued to document serious human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory, including extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and political imprisonment.

At least 30 people, and possibly many more, were killed by Indonesian security forces in 1990 and early 1991 in apparent extrajudicial executions. A pattern of short-term detention, ill-treatment and torture of political detainees appears to have worsened in the last year. More than 400 people have been detained in East Timor since late 1988 for their alleged involvement in pro-independence political activities; at least 200 of them since early 1990. Many may be or may have been prisoners of conscience and many have reportedly been ill-treated or tortured in custody. Forms of torture have included beatings with iron bars, batons and fists, burning with lighted cigarettes, slashing with razor blades and immersion for long periods in fetid water.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing serious concern at reports that Indonesian troops opened fire on an apparently peaceful memorial procession in East Timor killing an estimated 20 and possibly many more people and wounding others; noting also that soldiers reportedly beat some of the people at the gathering;

- expressing concern at reports that, following this incident, a number of people were detained and are now believed to be at risk of torture or ill-treatment;

- urging the authorities to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into these reports, with the results of the investigation to be made public; and asking to be informed of the progress of the investigation;

- seeking assurances that those in detention will be treated humanely, and that lawyers, doctors and relatives will be allowed access to the detainees;

- asking the authorities to release those detained solely for their non-violent political activities or beliefs;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that all those believed responsible for unlawful killings or ill-treatment of prisoners are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1. Minister of Justice:
Let. Ismail Saleh
Jalan Rasuna Said, Kav 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia
Telexes: 44404 DITJENIM IA
Faxes: + 62 21 32 1625

Your Excellency

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended actions. If possible, send a telegram, telex, fax or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Actions cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly on behalf of victims of grave human rights violations. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action co-ordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.

2. Military Commander for East Timor:
Brig. Gen Warouw — **Dear Brigadier General**
Markas Besar KOREM 164
Dili, Timor Timur
East Timor
Telegrams: Brig. Gen. Warouw, Dili, East Timor

3. National Chief of Police:
Lt. Gen. Drs. Kunarto — **Dear Lieutenant General**
Kepala Kepolisian RI
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jalan Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Telegrams: Lt Gen Drs Kunarto, Kepala Kepolisian RI, Jakarta, Indonesia

4. Commander in Chief, Armed Forces:
General Try Sutrisno — **Dear General**
Commander of the Armed Forces
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap, East Jakarta, Indonesia
Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno, Markas Besar Abri, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: + 62 21 36 1471 (Armed Forces HQ);
+ 62 21 37 8144 (Army HQ);
+ 62 21 35 6404 (Army HQ)

COPIES TO:

Governor of East Timor:
Ir. Mario Carrascalao
Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Timor Timur
Jalan Inpantai D. Hendrikue, Dili
East Timor

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 December 1991.